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COMOR-M-39

COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 429  
Matomic Building, Central Intelligence Agency  
at 9:30 a.m., 4 August 1961

PRESIDING

[Redacted]

Chairman

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MEMBERS PRESENT

\*Col. L. E. May, USAF  
Deputy Chairman

\*Mr. H. M. Wiedemann, State  
\*Col. J. L. Cole, JCS  
\*Col. D. D. Davis, OACSI

\*Capt. F. M. Murphy, ONI  
\*Lt. Col. W. L. Hall, AFCIN

\*[Redacted] NSA  
\*[Redacted] CIA

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Maj. J. D. Bowlby, OACSI  
Lt. Cdr. R. E. Pyle, ONI  
\*\*Mr. E. C. Nielsen, ONI  
Maj. G. S. Chapman, AFCIN  
\*Maj. R. H. Furr, AFCIN

\*[Redacted]  
\*\*[Redacted]

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\*Mr. W. A. Tidwell, CIA

[Redacted]

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\*Executive session  
\*\*Executive session only

Approval of Minutes

- 1. COMOR minutes 38 was approved (21 July 1961).

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ChiNat Photography (Reference [Redacted] COMOR-D-43, [Redacted]  
1 August 1961)

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2. Colonel May, USAF, suggested that COMOR members should submit targets to the JCS within a defined operational area available to the [Redacted] with a request that they be covered if, as, and when feasible. The Chairman will initiate action to accomplish this.

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Quarterly Report on KH Billets

3. The Chairman distributed a draft summary of the T-KH billets and requested that the members report back to him as soon as feasible a confirmation or amendment of these figures. He stated he would then transmit a memorandum to the Director for his approval to go to the White House, this memorandum to include the view of COMOR that the approval procedure for TALENT billet, which had been applicable for the past quarter, be continued for the next quarter. The COMOR concurred in this proposal.

Launching Schedule for CORONA-ARGON

4. The Chairman reported that the Under Secretary of the Air Force, who is responsible to the Secretary of Defense for all satellite reconnaissance activities, has requested (through Mr. Eugene Kiefer of DPD) the views of COMOR for priorities in scheduling CORONA and ARGON payloads. Scheduling must be concluded three weeks prior to scheduled launch. Taking this time element into account, the schedule for consideration is as follows:

29 August	C Triple Prime
8 September	C Triple Prime
28 September	ARGON
October	ARGON

5. The Committee agreed to discuss this matter with their superiors in preparation for consideration at an early meeting to be scheduled by the Chairman.

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Clarification of Downgrading Authority

6. The Chairman reported that [ ] NPIC, had inquired whether Hainan Island, which was included in the Indochina mission of 3 January 1961 (Mission 3018) should be subject to the Downgrading decision set forth in COMOR-D-22/9 [ ] 7 June 1961). The Committee saw no objection to the inclusion of Hainan Island, particularly inasmuch as the photography was peripheral.

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Downgraded TALENT Materials: CIA/NPIC Contributions to DOD Aerial Photo Library

7. The Chairman referred to a problem on IBID photography raised by the Navy in a memorandum which had been disseminated to the members (Ser NT-000145, 14 July 1961). This, he said, had been the subject of a discussion between Major Chapman and [ ] subsequently. Major Chapman reported at the meeting that this problem had been solved. For convenient reference of the members, the correspondence and the established procedure is set forth as COMOR-D-44, [ ] 7 August 1961).

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Requirement for Photographic Coverage of Southeast Asia (Reference: ST-93-61/A, 31 July 1961)

8. The Chairman referred to the reference document received from the Army in pursuance of a responsibility of Colonel Boucher, which he had accepted on behalf of the Ad Hoc Collection Committee on Southeast Asia. This document had attached to it "Military Intelligence Deficiencies in Southeast Asia," USIB-D-63.1/4 (a memorandum from General Erskine to the Chairman of the USIB). Preliminary discussion revealed that the terms of reference of Colonel Boucher's Committee were necessary for the Chairman to accomplish his staff work necessary before COMOR could properly consider its reply. Colonel Davis agreed to provide this information.

Requirements for the 29 August KH Mission

9. The COMOR confirmed the requirements advice which it had provided in the aborted Mission 9021 and that programmed in the mission for 22 August with the additional request that coverage of [ ] be programmed as early as feasible.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. At the instance of the Navy, the COMOR discussed the sanitization of the GRAB product. It was agreed that each member would, as promptly as possible, consult his superior on a draft paper prepared at the meeting and report to the Chairman. If and when that draft paper is approved, the Chairman stated that he would issue it as a COMOR document unless some member requested that it be forwarded to the USIB for its approval. It was understood that the range of cognizance which was appropriate for the COMOR to take on matters relating to GRAB would be the subject of further consideration by COMOR.

(N. B. The members reported approval of the draft by their respective agencies before the close of business on 4 August 1961. The Chairman so informed ONI by telephone that day.)

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JAMES Q. REBER

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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6, 7--ONI TCO  
8, 9, 10--AFCIN TCO  
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17--ORR TCO  
18--DIR NPIC  
19--TSO CIA  
20--OPS OFF/NPIC  
21--C/DMD/NPIC  
22--DDP TCO  
23--Intel Staff/DPD  
24--SO/DPD  
25-27--C/SRS/DPD/DDP

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